SECURE USER AUTHENTICATION TO COMPUTING RESOURCE VIA SMART CARD

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A simplified user authentication to a computer resource utilizing a smart card. When a new user is issued a smart card, he or she is also issued a user name (ID) and password to be used during a first use to activate the smart card. The user then connects the smart card and enters the user ID and password. The user is authenticated using the user ID and password and identifying information from the smart card. The network administration server then requests a public key from the workstation. The workstation instructs the smart card to generates public and private key. The public key is transmitted to the server. A digital certificate is created the smart card is activated. Once the smart card is activated a simplified login procedure can be used wherein connecting the smart card to a workstation initiates a login process not requiring use of a PIN number or other user input.